

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Banta, Taylor-Moye, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Bonney, dePara, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Olson, Brantley, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Blunt, *Silva, Curwen

*= arrived late

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:42 pm.

The city clerk took the roll call.

The following persons signed up to speak before the city council prior to the public speaking session:

John Marshall Lee – below are his comments:

City Council Comments: February 4, 2013

President McCarthy, Members of the Council, City Clerk Hudson, members of the public, present and viewing the proceedings on television:

Thank you for providing time for the public to speak. Some of us hope that you can hear the specific questions we ask and respond to them. Others hope that the comments themselves stir specific action on your part. For my part I have come to know that the questions I have asked in person and then in emails to each of you receive almost no response. That worries me because I have closely looked at your fiscal governance as a body, the information you officially receive, and the manner in which you address it in meetings. I suggest that your behavior is wanting. As a taxpayer that worries me greatly. Last month I said that you have a duty to be our representatives and in that sense, especially around money, to be a watchdog. I further said that this watchdog seems blind and toothless. Some members of the public found that to be funny. I did not mean it in that way. Rather I wanted to indicate what a serious look by a member of the public reveals. Let me provide some evidence tonight.

The City owes you information on a monthly basis by the fourth Friday of each following month. On January 25 December should have been received. Instead you only had October. The Budget & Appropriations Committee on January 14 questioned OPM Director Sherwood and Finance Kelly-Lenz. They offered no real excuses, because there are none. For instance, the December, 2012 Financial Condition report of the Board of Education was available in mid January. It is based on MUNIS. Why can the public schools be more timely with the data than the City?

The real concern is that the minutes of the B&A meeting show no real questions or monitoring of what did show up from July- September. The City administration changed line item info for approximately 60 department accounts. The net effect was to reduce Line Item 51000, net on net, by over \$3,600,000. That has to do with Full Time Earned Compensation. Were any employees terminated? Were any positions eliminated? What did this cost cutting mean? No questions from the Council. No comments from the administration. Why not? Is it a big deal? Or was it merely the elimination of much of the budgeted dollars for "ghost expenses". Where will the money be spent? Why have you not asked those questions? Are they your business? Do you care about taxpayer funds?

In that regard I question your process of monitoring and oversight by B&A of the reports. As of October report, Finance Director Kelly-Lenz is providing no narrative for variances, though she is providing info for variance from budget and from previous year report. Without narratives, you appear lost. If you are lost, ask for help, but ask a question. We cannot go on for years with report formats that do not satisfy you.

Finally, another example of the poor job of oversight performed each month is evidence from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report sent by Director Kelly-Lenz on December 21 but not posted to the City Clerk office until January 28 nor available on the Finance web site until that same week.

Go to the listing of department appropriations in excess of budget in the report from 2011 and you will find OVERexpenditure in 16 areas for a total of \$5,139,359. Advancing to the past year closing June 30, 2012 you will find OVERexpenditures in 26 departments for \$11,444,000. Police at \$4,483,000 and Miscellaneous for nearly \$3 Million should prove embarrassing to anyone who thinks that they are paying attention to City administration. What is going on here? Why is there no public hearing to review the CAFR for the benefit of the Council, the taxpayer and permit the City to share some of the real problems faced by leadership?

The CAFR shows growth of long term obligations like the Internal Service Fund and promises to retirees. If your contract expenses are locked in for the short run, you must monitor and cut in other areas. Get your vision checked. Let the departments believe that you ask hard questions and expect good answers. Stop rolling over and playing dead. The revaluation is scheduled. The Council election comes closer each day. What will you do to prove your worth to taxpayer voters? Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee, 30 Beacon Street, Bridgeport, CT 06605

Clyde Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson spoke about the need for the city council to do something about guns on the street. He emphasized that they need to deal with the problem in another way. He recalled that he asked the police several times for help; noting an incident that occurred at Greens Apartments that is located near the police station on Congress Street. He further emphasized that leadership in the police department is the problem. He expressed that he had nothing but sympathy for the Sandy Hook victims and he said that one big issue is the purchase of assault weapons. He repeated that there is still a big problem with people being gunned down. He stressed again that the police need to address the problem. He strongly voiced that in his opinion *"If a person takes a life in Bridgeport, then they should get life imprisonment"*. He said that folks are afraid for their kids and they don't feel safe. He said that he had real concerns and he was sure that the problems could be solved if

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everyone sat down and talked. He offered suggestions to address the problem by making sure that every gun is insured and registered.

Amos Brown

Mr. Brown spoke about assault weapons. He said he was aware of a lot of talk in Connecticut about them; but there is no talk about illegal handguns, which he thought are what's killing our children today. He stressed that nothing was said or done about the problem until the Newtown tragedy. He stated that China out numbers the United States, with twelve (12) murders during 2012; wherein the United States has seen 6,000+ murders. He commented that guns are going out back doors of warehouses and coming from gun shows into our communities. He expressed that our ancestors didn't die for their children to be "murdered" on the streets. He mentioned gang activity that is rampant in Norwalk and the cause for too many killings and he said they have to be stopped. He further mentioned that resources that are taken from police force manpower and he felt strongly that assault weapons definitely have no place for public use, noting they should only be used for the military and the police force.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Investigation of an unjust termination
and the cause of the high asthma rate.

Mr. Young urged everyone to go to his website www.cecilyoung.com to see airborne particles that he thought could be attributed to the high rate of asthma in the community. He went on to speak about Council members Baker and Holloway to say that they were elected...Council President McCarthy interjected to ask Mr. Young to restrict his comments from talking about personalities. Mr. Young continued to explain that his main concern was to question why his allegations haven't been looked into. He stated that when they put people into authority that look like him...once again Council President McCarthy requested that Mr. Young refrain from personal comments. Mr. Young questioned why nothing has been done to investigate his allegations. He said he believed that he did all he was suppose to do as a taxpayer and in return; he expected some justification or at least for someone to look into his concerns.

Hearing none, the public speaking session was closed.

The public speaking session closed at 7:05 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Olson, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Curwen

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Taylor-Moye.

Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by Council member Banta.

Mayor Finch announced that the recipient and his mother were ill and unable to attend tonight.

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Joshua Arizmendi for winning the grand prize in the "Big Dream for the President" contest.

City Council Citation: In Recognition of Joshua Arizmendi for winning the grand prize in the "Big Dream for the President" contest.

Mayor Finch requested a moment of recognition to honor the 100th Anniversary of Rosa Park's birth.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Council President McCarthy announced that the following council members were absent tonight: Council member Vizzo-Paniccia was recovering from surgery; Council member Olson was ill.

Council President McCarthy and Council members Bonney and dePara came forward to present the official badge to the new council member Council member Banta. He congratulated him and welcomed him to the city council; noting that he had great expectations for him.

Council member Banta thanked the city council for the opportunity. He said he was looking forward to serving fairly and he was glad to be a part of the city.

Appointment of School Building Committee

Council President McCarthy stated that Council member Curwen has stepped down from the city council, but he hasn't submitted his official resignation yet. However, the committee needs a full quorum because they do a lot of work. He made a request to appoint a replacement with the newest council member, Council member Banta.

Council member Baker asked for clarification regarding the by-laws for the School Building Committee. Mayor Finch stated that pursuant to the statute there are by-laws. He explained that there are three (3) appointments submitted as a council, by the Mayor and the school board and all these parties impact the committee.

Council member Baker asked if any decisions were made by the city council. Mayor Finch stated that the School Building Committee was established by state law, so the city has no say. However, periodic reviews are conducted to determine design of the schools etc. He further noted the schools that are planned for renovations and replacements estimated at a cost of half a billion dollars.

Council member Holloway stated that the committee meets once per month and reviews drawings by the architects. They discuss how the funds will be spent according to the percentage outlined and the assignments that are given, as to who will actually construct the buildings. Overall, he stated that it's a tough process.

Council President McCarthy thanked Council members Holloway, Martinez and Curwen for their hard work, noting that it has been an arduous task.

Council member Martinez commented that having a council member serve on the committee was beneficial, because varied aspects of the plans are discussed on behalf of the children and parents.

Council member Baker thanked everyone for the information.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: January 7, 2013

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBERS BRANTLEY SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy called for a caucus at 7:28 pm.

The caucus ended at 8:15 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 8:20 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 26-12** Communication from WPCA re: Financial Report/Annual Audit pursuant to Ordinance Section 13.04.420, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 27-12** Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes to Pay Current Expenses and Obligations of the City (\$110,000,000), referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.
- 28-12** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Agreement with The Hartford Life Insurance Basic Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance for City Employees for the period of April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2016, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 29-12** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Agreement with Unum Short Term and Long Term Disability Income Protection Insurance Policy for Eligible City Employees for the period of March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2015, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 30-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution concerning Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 956 Main Street – City Savings Bank Building and request Ordering a Public Hearing relative to the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***23-12** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Steve O. McKenzie (R) to the Ethics Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

New Business:

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION RE: GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION IN HARTFORD AND THE CURRENT DANGER POSED TO RESIDENTS IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE RE: GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION IN HARTFORD AND THE CURRENT DANGER POSED TO RESIDENTS IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

Council President McCarthy stated that due to the unspeakable tragedy that occurred in Newtown Connecticut; they worked as a council to put together a list of ideas, so that everyone is aware where the City of Bridgeport stands on the issue of gun control. He clarified that the city council firmly believes in the "legal right of gun ownership" and the vote does not restrict that right. The support of the legislation will merely help exercise wise gun control and ensure that a legal gun owner is the person that holds the gun and to promote smart legal legislation. He expressed that when we think about the city in an urban environment, they need to think about children that are walking to and from school but aren't sure whether they will make it back home safely. He recalled and acknowledged the young girl that sang at the Presidential Inauguration and was then killed by random gun violence shortly thereafter. He reiterated that the document submitted will address the

issue. He further clarified that what has been submitted; does not authorize the legislation. However, it will send a message to legislators to rise and address the matter of gun control.

Below is the additional language adopted by the City Council last evening on Pres. McCarthy's Anti-Gun Violence Resolution:

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Gun Control Legislative Proposals

No. 13. Outlaw the possession and purchase of body armor (exempting law enforcement and active military personnel), defined in Connecticut Law as being any material designed to be worn on the body and to provide bullet penetration resistance;

No. 10. Regulate the online purchase and delivery of ammunition by banning the use of rights-of-way for the transportation of ammunition.

It is suggested that this language be inserted on page 2 of the Resolution between the S.32 Lautenber / H.R. 308 McCarthy... "and the first WHEREAS provision on that page. This language will then be part of the gun legislation referenced in No. 1 of the "Now Therefore, Be It Resolved" provision.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM # 31-12)**

***full copy of legislation submitted to city clerk.**

Other business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING THREE (3) ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

1)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 25-12 (A) – JOINT BUDGET & MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH RINH THACH**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2)

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 25-12(B) – JOINT BUDGET & MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS REPORT – BUDGET TRANSFER TO THE FY 2012-2013 GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR CITY ATTORNEY FROM: CONTINGENCIES ACCOUNT 01610000 57005 (\$825,000) TO: PERSONAL PROPERTY CLAMIS ACCOUNT 01600000 53010 (\$825,000)**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3)

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 25-12(C) – JOINT BUDGET & MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS REPORT – SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH DONNA LILLAS DENIED.**

Council member dePara stated that the it was the committee's recommendation and unanimous vote to deny.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

It was clarified that a yes vote = in support of the denial

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF DENIAL**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED**

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO REFER RE: INFORMATION/DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO (YOUTH RELATED) ANTI-VIOLENCE SOLUTIONS**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM # 32-12)**

- Council member Paoletto reminded everyone about the informational session scheduled on Tuesday, February 5; 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at the City Hall Annex Re: OPED.
- Council member Lyons announced that she attended the police academy graduation. She expressed that she was impressed at the amazing group of police officers that she felt would serve the City of Bridgeport well. She commented that the new officers had good mentors and she thanked the police department, Mayor Finch, the chief of police and police officers.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services